CACCIATORI DI PREDE

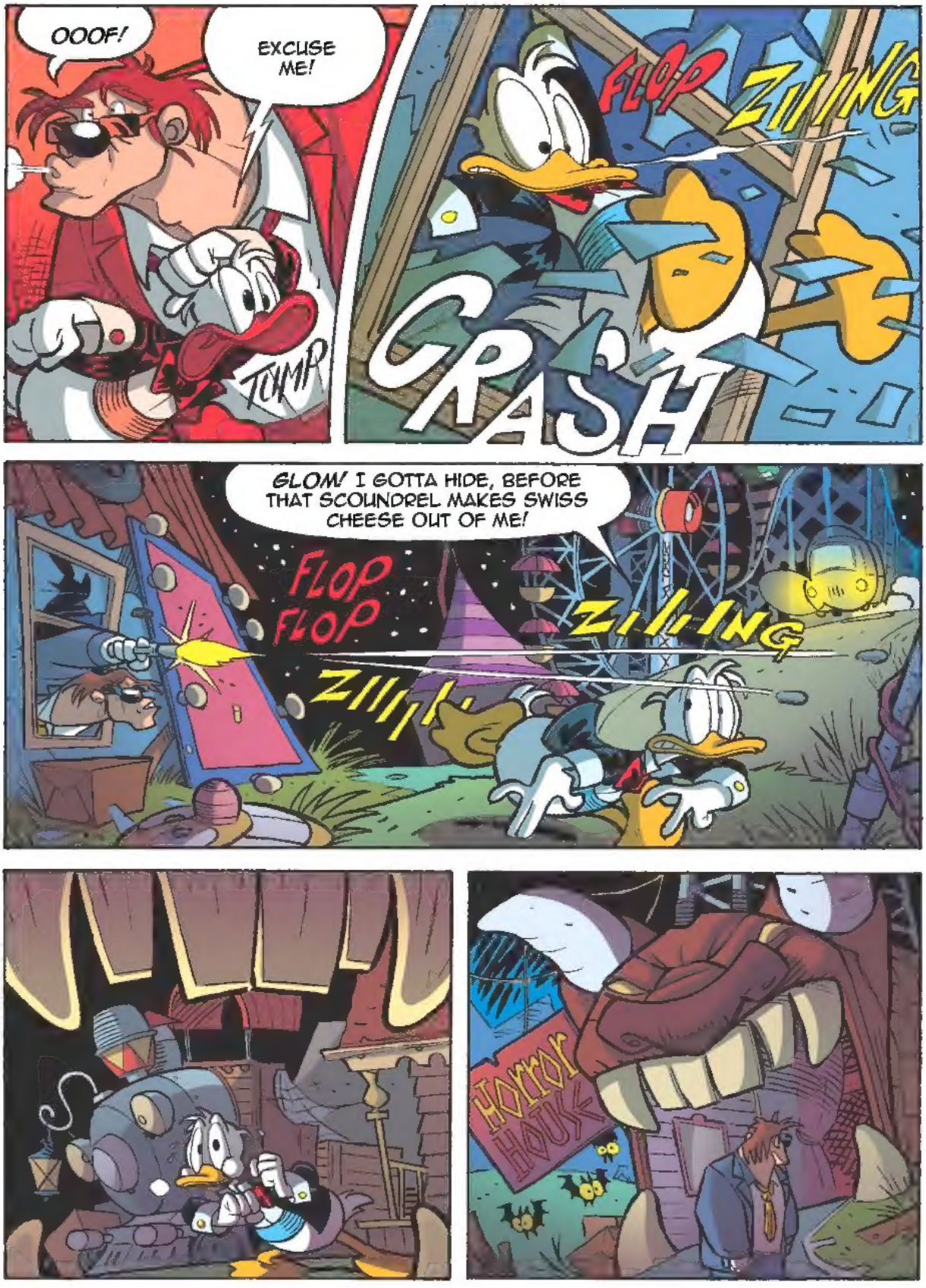
DOUBLEDUCK

QUARTO EPISODIO

IN THE PREVIOUS INSTALLMENT THE 24 HOUR EXERCISE THE NEW HEAD OF THE AGENCY HAS MADE DOUBLEDUCK AND HIS COLLEAGUES UNDERGO HAS BECOME A LITTLE TOO REALISTIC. THE ABDUCTION OF MR. JAY J AND AN UNFRIENDLY KILLER IS MAKING IT A WEE BIT TENSE FOR OUR HERO! DOWN BELOW, THE DISPLAY INDICATES THE TIME THAT'S PASSED SINCE THE START OF THIS ADVENTURE...
17:28
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME WHEN I VISITED THE PYRAMIDS! * MAY I KNOW WHY?
SIMPLE, BECAUSE THIS IS MY JOB!
* SEE "TOTAL RESET BUTTON".
NOTHING PERSONAL! TO ME YOU'RE JUST A "CONTRACT"!
I-2818-1

Testo di **Marco Bosco** - Disegni di **Andrea Freccero**
Supervisione colore **Max Monteduro**

I'M PAID TO *TAKE YOU OUT* AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME!
A BIG SHOT AT THE *AGENCY!*
!
I COULD EVEN GIVE YOU THE NAME...
... BUT HAVING YOU DROP DEAD IN DOUBT WOULD BE MORE FUN!
HUH? *WHO* IS PAYING YOU?
GOODBYE, DUCK! HAVE A GOOD ONE-WAY TRIP!
URGH! WHAT THE...


OOOF!
EXCUSE ME!
TUMP
FLOP
ZI I ING
CRASH
GLOM! I GOTTA HIDE, BEFORE THAT SCOUNDREL MAKES SWISS CHEESE OUT OF ME!
FLOP FLOP
ZIIIII
ZI I ING
HORROR HOUSE

Frush

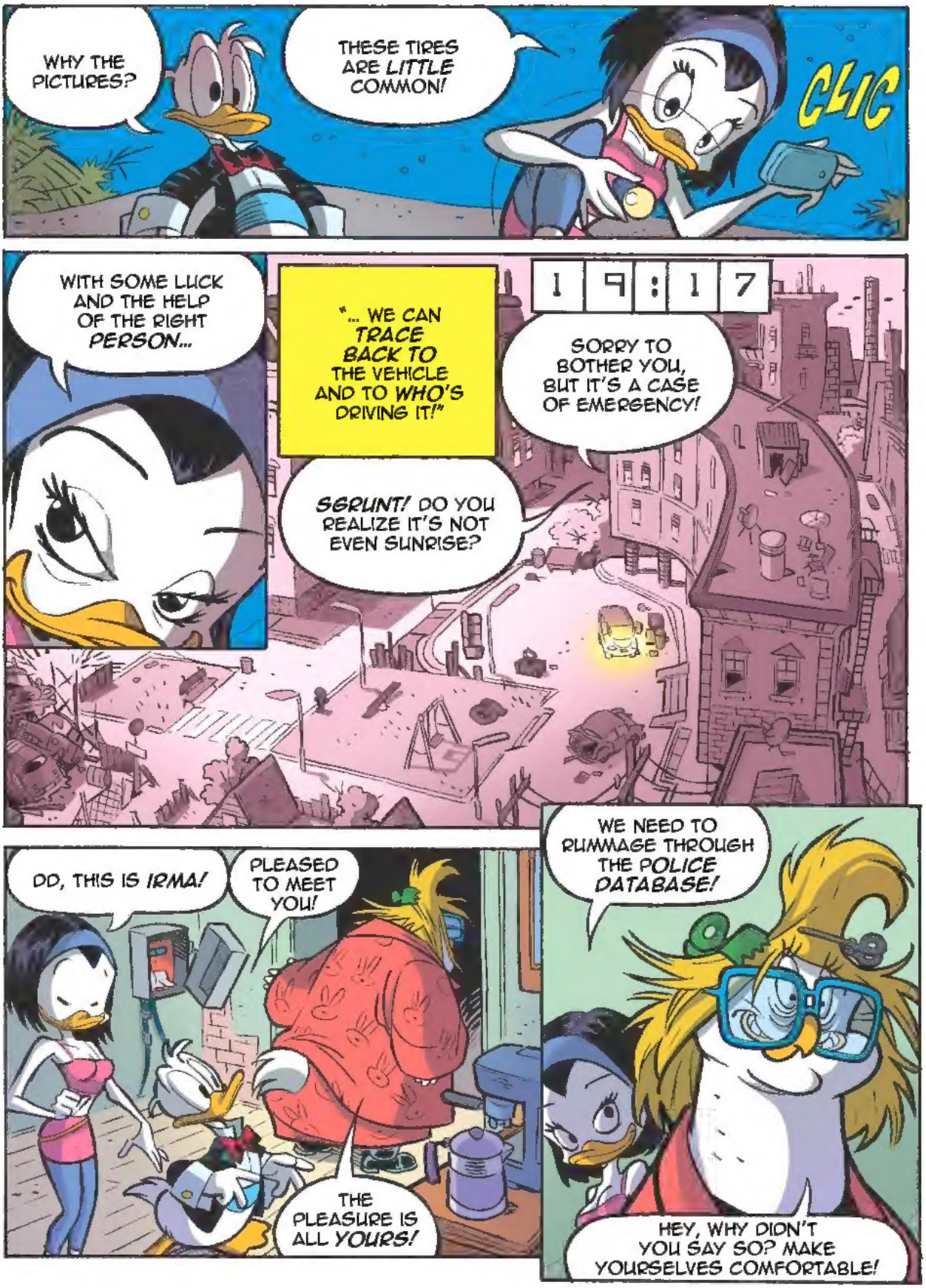
FLOP FLOP
CRASH!
?
SURPRISE!
STUMP
NICE HIT, DD!
AND I NEED TO THANK YOU... AND YOUR VAN'S HEADLIGHTS!
ALL WENT WELL! THE GUY I FOLLOWED STOPPED A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY AND...

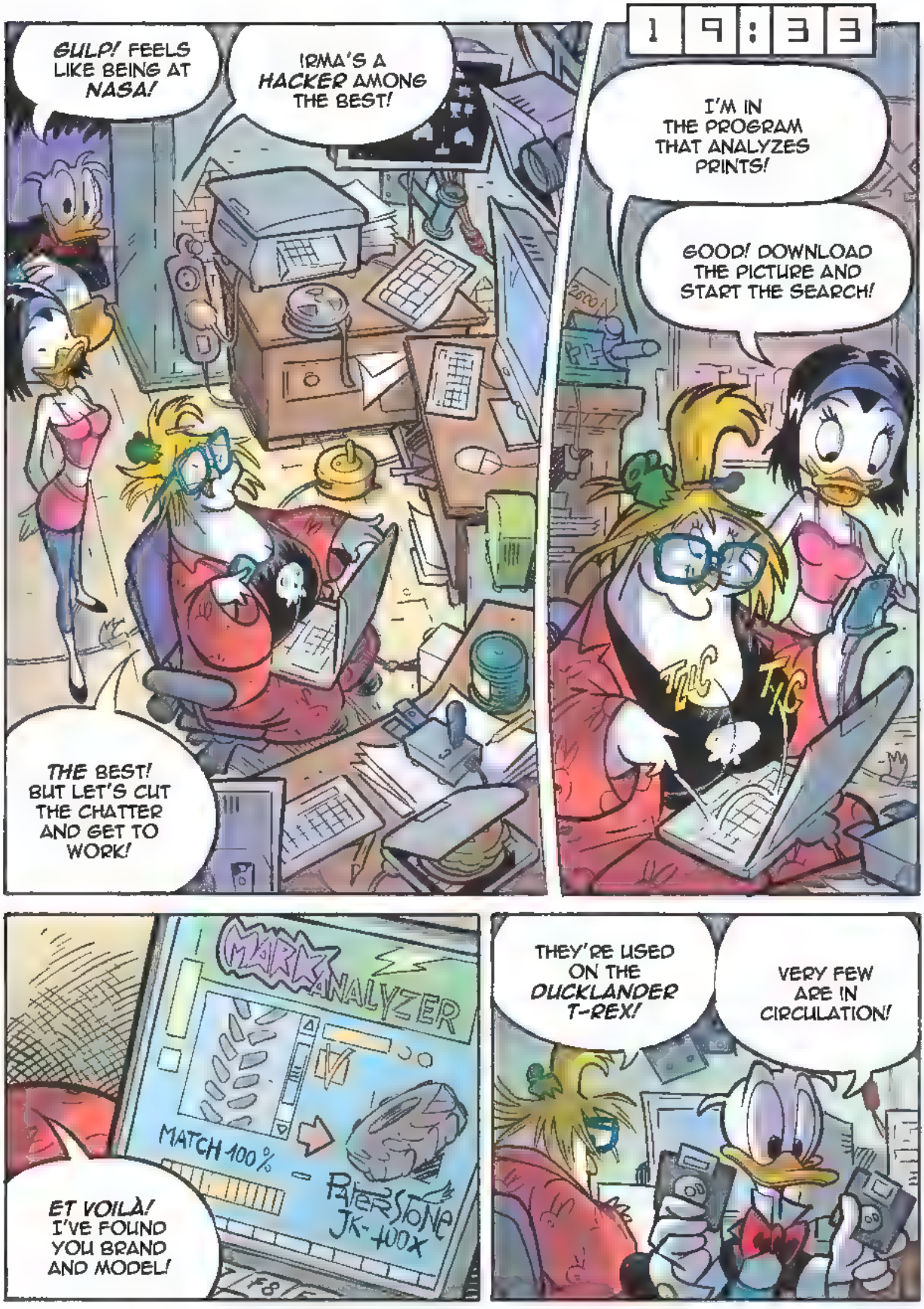
"... AND I MADE HASTE UPON RECEIVING YOUR CALL!"
AS FOR THIS PLEASANT GUY, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HIS NAME'S *GOMES* AND HE'S ALREADY TRIED TO RIDDLE ME ONCE TODAY!
BUT HOW DID HE *FIND* ME, IF NOT EVEN I KNEW I WOULD COME HERE?
HE FOLLOWED YOU, I IMAGINE! HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON YOUR TRAIL SINCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON!
BUT HE SAYS HE KNOWS WHO'S PAYING HIM!
THINK HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR *FIRST MISSION*?
I DOUBT IT, HE'S ONLY A VILE ASSASSIN!
THEN WE HAVE TO SQUEEZE IT OUT OF HIM! BUT FIRST...

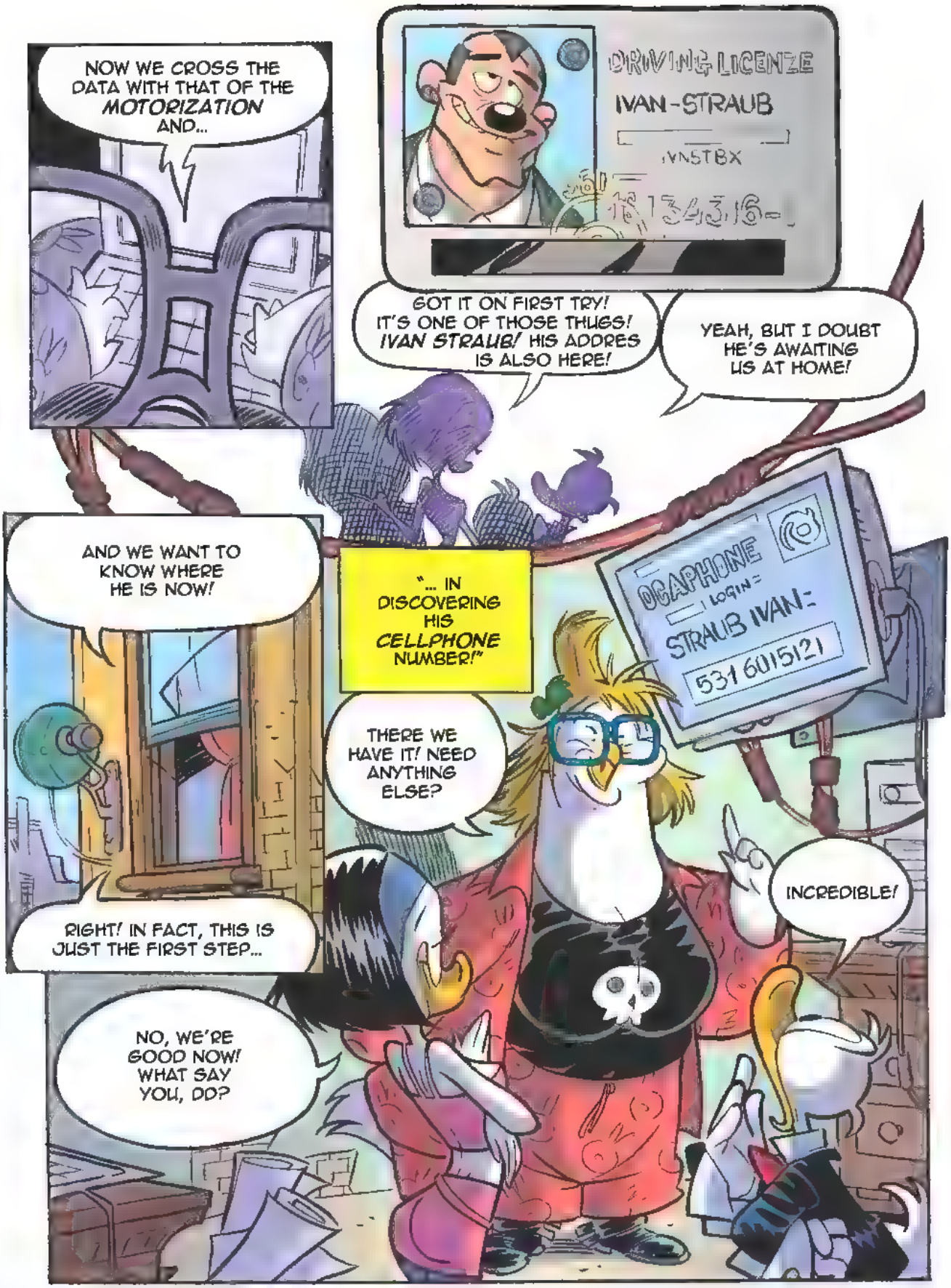
"... WE NEED TO PROPERLY WRAP HIM UP!"
PANT! HE WEIGHTS LIKE A HIPPO!
NEXT TIME YOU GOTTA GET A SKINNY HITMAN PURSUING YOU! HE HE!
DONE! NOW TO TRACK DOWN JAY J AGAIN!
SLAM
EASIER SAID THAN DONE! HOW?
WITH THIS SPECIAL SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM!
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET THAT, WHEN I GOT HERE...
"... I SAW HIM AND HIS KIDNAPPERS, INTENDED TO SLIP AWAY!"

"SO, I SHOT A RADIO TRANSMITTER AT THEIR CAR..."
BLAM
TLACK
X1-2°
... ATTACHING IT TO THE BODYWORK! ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS FOLLOW THE SIGNAL!
KAY K, YOU'RE AMAZING!
VROOOM
18:37
YOU SAYING YOU LIKE ME, DARLING?
EHEM... E-ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DRIVE WITH BOTH HANDS!
WE SHOULD GET A GLIMPSE OF THE CAR ANY MOMENT NOW! SIGNAL INDICATES IT'S STOPPED NEARBY!
BUT WHY STOP AT THIS AREA OF THE WATERFRONT? IT'S COMPLETELY DESERTED!

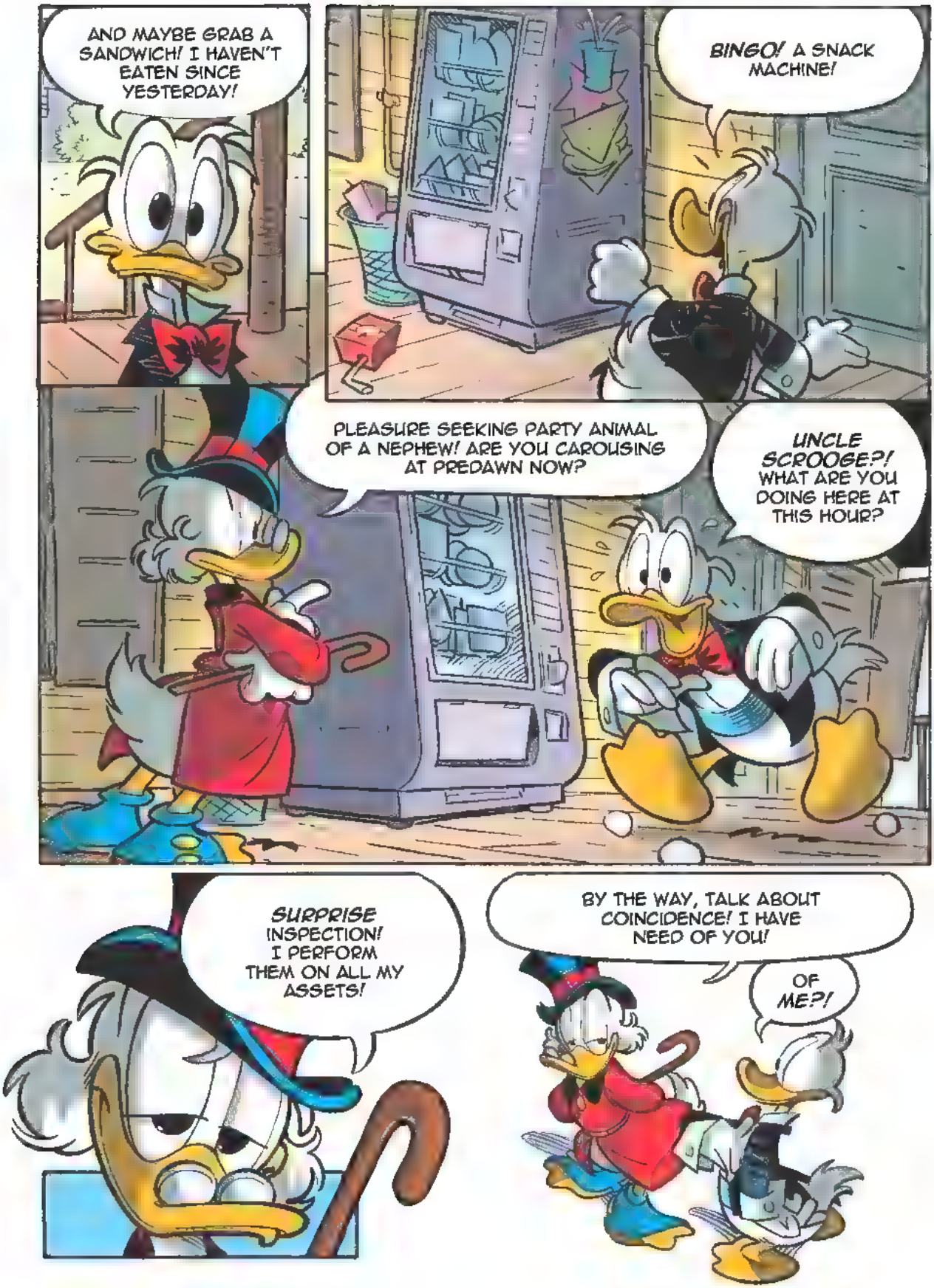
I WONDER THAT TOO! THIS SMELLS FISHY!
I FEAR THAT... THERE IT IS! IT'S BEEN ABANDONED!
MUST BE A STOLEN CAR!
OH NO!
HOW DO WE GET THEM NOW?
DON'T DESPAIR JUST YET!
THERE ARE TIRE TRACKS HERE... WIDE AND DEEP ONES!
I'D SAY IT'S AN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE! OR A BIG SUV!

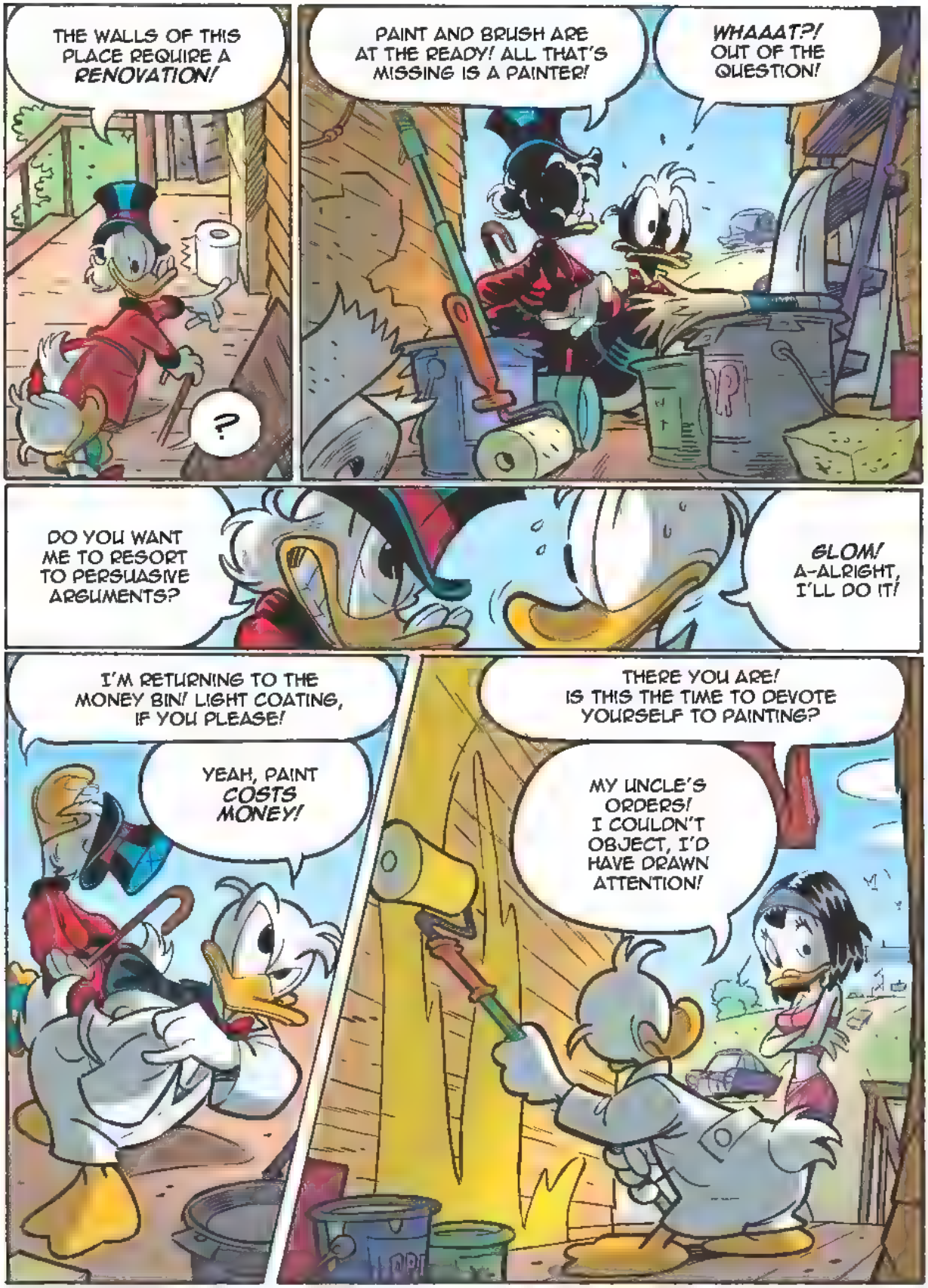

WHY THE PICTURES?
THESE TIRES ARE LITTLE COMMON!
CLIC
WITH SOME LUCK AND THE HELP OF THE RIGHT PERSON...
"... WE CAN TRACE BACK TO THE VEHICLE AND TO WHO'S DRIVING IT!"
19:17
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT IT'S A CASE OF EMERGENCY!
SGRUNT! DO YOU REALIZE IT'S NOT EVEN SUNRISE?
DD, THIS IS IRMA!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
THE PLEASURE IS ALL YOURS!
WE NEED TO RUMMAGE THROUGH THE POLICE DATABASE!
HEY, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE!


GULP! FEELS LIKE BEING AT NASA!
IRMA'S A HACKER AMONG THE BEST!
THE BEST! BUT LET'S CUT THE CHATTER AND GET TO WORK!
19:33
I'M IN THE PROGRAM THAT ANALYZES PRINTS!
GOOD! DOWNLOAD THE PICTURE AND START THE SEARCH!
MARK ANALYZER
MATCH 100 %
RIVERSTONE JK-100X
ET VOILÀ! I'VE FOUND YOU BRAND AND MODEL!
THEY'RE USED ON THE DUCKLANDER T-REX!
VERY FEW ARE IN CIRCULATION!


NOW WE CROSS THE DATA WITH THAT OF THE MOTORIZATION AND...
DRIVING LICENZE
IVAN-STRAUB
GOT IT ON FIRST TRY! IT'S ONE OF THOSE THUGS! IVAN STRAUB! HIS ADDRES IS ALSO HERE!
YEAH, BUT I DOUBT HE'S AWAITING US AT HOME!
AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW!
"... IN DISCOVERING HIS CELLPHONE NUMBER!"
OCAPHONE
LOGIN=
STRAUB IVAN=
531 6015121
THERE WE HAVE IT! NEED ANYTHING ELSE?
INCREDIBLE!
RIGHT! IN FACT, THIS IS JUST THE FIRST STEP...
NO, WE'RE GOOD NOW! WHAT SAY YOU, DD?

THANKS, IRMA! HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?
AVOID PESTERING ME EARLY IN THE MORNING! I'M GOING BACK TO BED, SO LONG!
NOW WE JUST LOCATE THE CELLPHONE!
THIS WILL HANDLE IT! IT'S ALSO PROGRAMMED FOR THAT!
21:48
HERE'S WHERE STRAUB IS! THE PARKED BLACK T-REX IS CERTAINLY HIS!
THUS, MR. JAY J IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN ONE OF THE ROOMS!
MOTEL
THE PROBLEM IS FINDING OUT WHICH!
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT!
A PEEK AT THE REGISTER IN THE RECEPTION SHOULD DO IT!
YOU HANDLE THAT! I'LL GO SCOUTING IN THE MEANTIME!


AND MAYBE GRAB A SANDWICH! I HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY!
BINGO! A SNACK MACHINE!
PLEASURE SEEKING PARTY ANIMAL OF A NEPHEW! ARE YOU CAROUSING AT PREDAWN NOW?
UNCLE SCROOGE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?
SURPRISE INSPECTION! I PERFORM THEM ON ALL MY ASSETS!
BY THE WAY, TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCE! I HAVE NEED OF YOU!
OF ME?!


THE WALLS OF THIS PLACE REQUIRE A RENOVATION!
?
PAINT AND BRUSH ARE AT THE READY! ALL THAT'S MISSING IS A PAINTER!
WHAAAT?! OUT OF THE QUESTION!
DO YOU WANT ME TO RESORT TO PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS?
GLOM! A-ALRIGHT, I'LL DO IT!
I'M RETURNING TO THE MONEY BIN! LIGHT COATING, IF YOU PLEASE!
YEAH, PAINT COSTS MONEY!
THERE YOU ARE! IS THIS THE TIME TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PAINTING?
MY UNCLE'S ORDERS! I COULDN'T OBJECT, I'D HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION!

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED WHERE OUR "FRIENDS" ARE STAYING?
YES, AT NUMBER 26!
IT'S THE ROOM AT THE END OF THE BUILDING!
26
HOW DO WE PROCEED?
I'LL DRAW HIM OUT WITH A TRICK! THEN, YOU RESCUE JAY J!
IT'S BETTER THAT WE'RE NOT SEEN TOGETHER!
JUST TAKE THE VAN! I'LL MANAGE!
I SEE, YOU'LL KEEP MOVING IN THE SHADOWS!
UNDERSTOOD! GOOD LUCK!
FOR STARTERS, WE SHOULD FLUSH OUT AT LEAST ONE OF THE KIDNAPPERS!

22:29
HEY! A CAR ALARM HAS GONE OFF!
ARGH! THAT'S MY CAR! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO STEAL IT!
DIRTY THIEVES! I HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED PAYING FOR IT!
IF THEY'VE SCRATCHED THE BODYWORK, I'LL TEAR THEM APART!
HUH? MUST BE HIM!
PRIPI PRIPI
WE'VE GOT JAY J! EVERYTHING'S PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN!

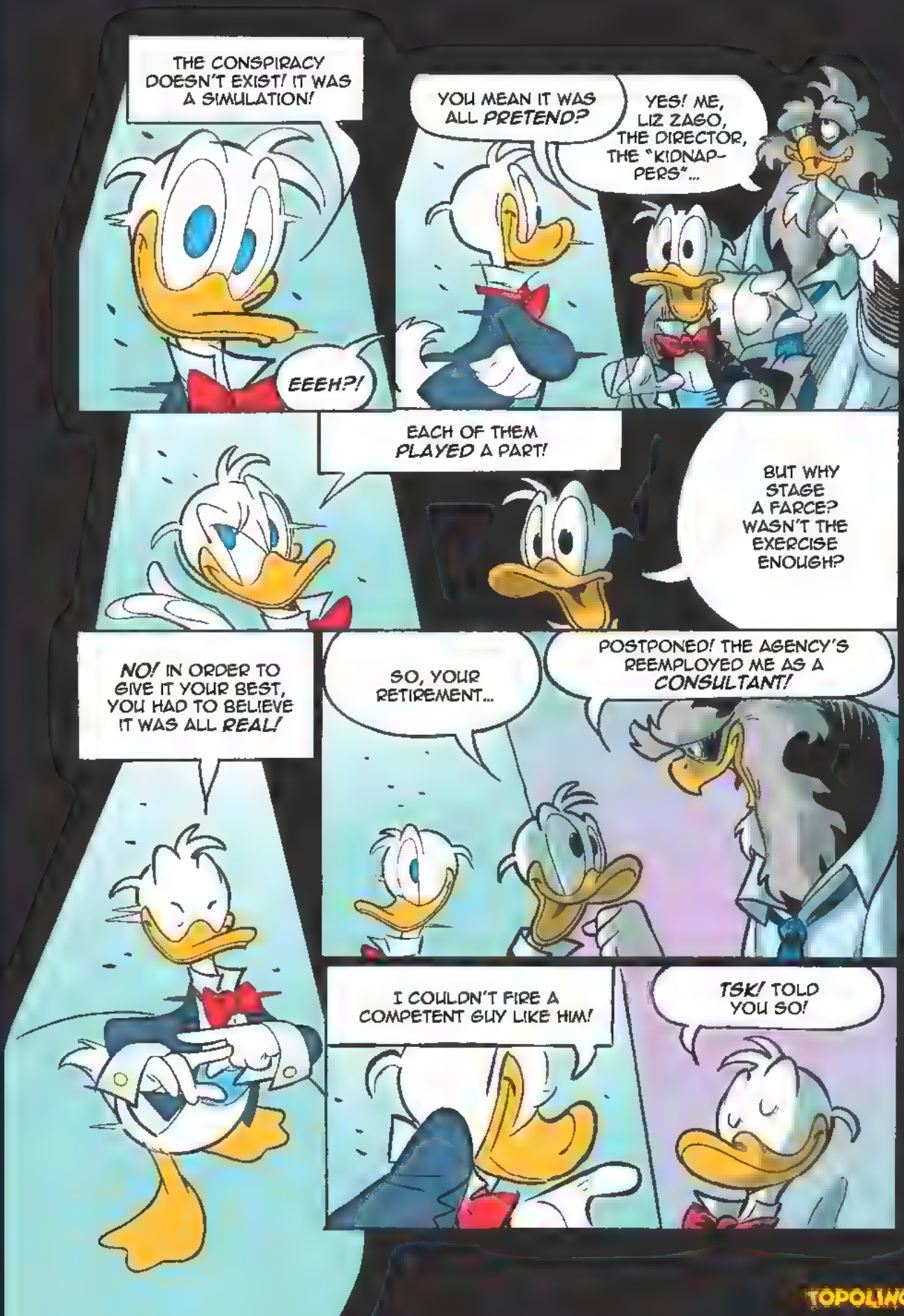
TAKE A REST, HANDSOME!
TUDO
OOOF...
SWEET DREAMS, FRIEND!
PFFFT
GULP! WHAT ARE YOU...
QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT, NOW WE NEED TO LEAVE!
VROUM
SKEEE
BUT FIRST I'M GRABBING THAT CELLPHONE!
WHY'D YOU TAKE THAT FROM HIM?
BECAUSE I'M INTERESTED IN THE LAST CALL HE GOT!

THE GUY JUST SPOKE WITH THE BRAINS OF THE CONSPIRACY, REGISTERING HIS NUMBER!
SO, WE CAN FIND OUT WHO THE TRAITOR WHO SOLD ME OUT IS! NICE GOING!
MMMPF!
HEY! BUT THAT'S GOMES!
HOW'S HE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER?
HE'S NOT, ACTUALLY! I'LL EXPLAIN...
SKREEE
"... AS WE HEAD TO THE AGENCY!"
23:13
LOCK HIM UP IN THE BASEMENT! WE'LL INTERROGATE HIM LATER!
PANT! I TAKE IT BACK, HE WEIGHTS LIKE TWO HIPPOS!

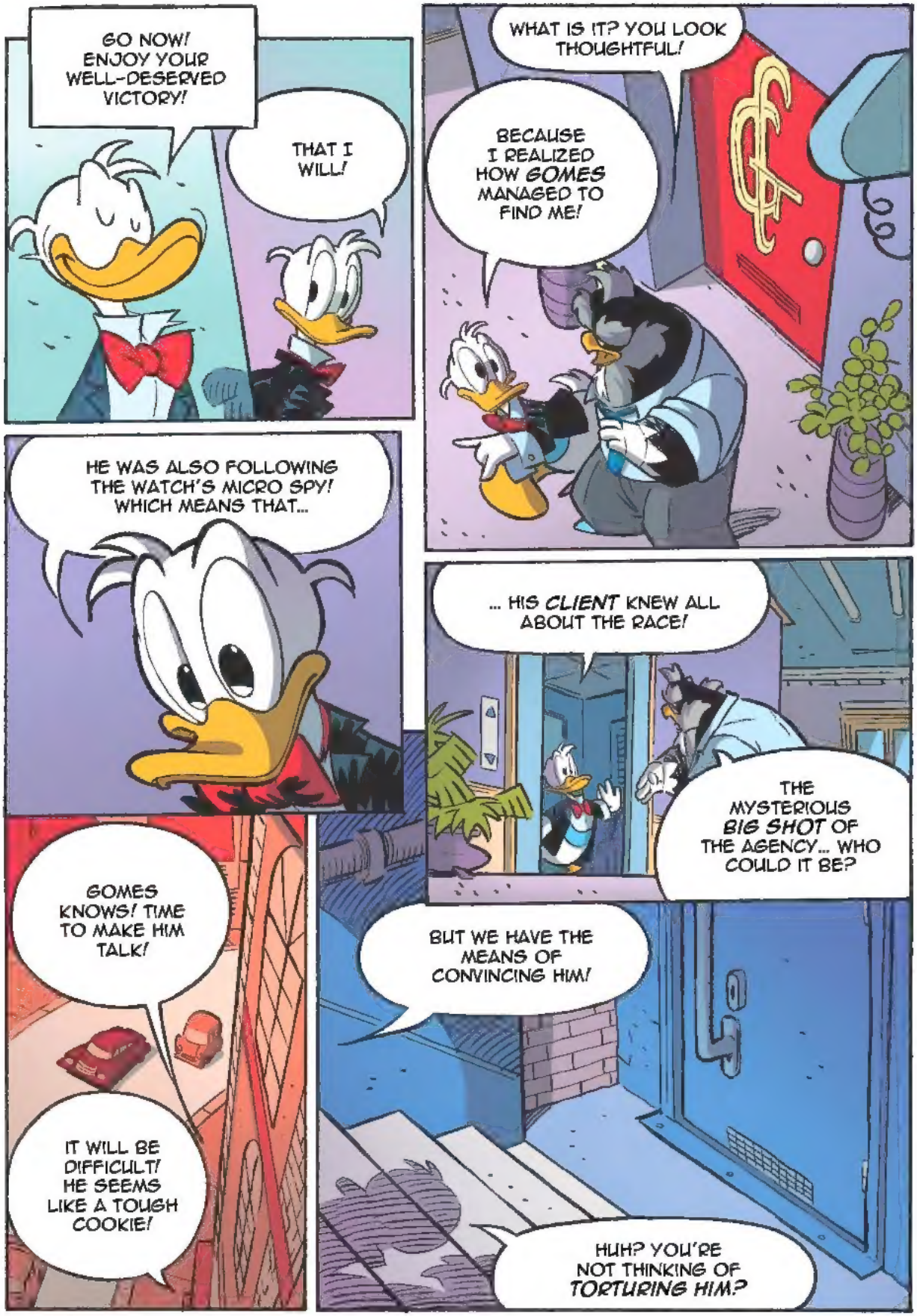
THE ASSASSIN'S TAKEN CARE OF! NOW TO DEAL WITH THE TRAITOR!
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THAT?
I'LL GET HIM ON THE HOOK WITH AN SMS!
I KNOW YOU ABDUCTED JAY J. I'M WAITING IN THE MEETING ROOM.
MFF!
"WHEN HE READS IT, HE'LL BE FORCED TO UNMASK HIMSELF!"
HE HASN'T SHOWED UP YET! HAS HE SMELLED THE TRAP?
23:15
HE'LL COME, YOU'LL SEE! BY NOW IT'S A MATTER OF MINUTES!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HERE HE IS!
GLAB! MR. HEAD H?

CONGRATULATIONS, AGENT DOUBLEDUCK! AS IT APPEARS, YOU'VE CAUGHT ME!
TSK! ANOTHER DOUBLE-DEALER! THESE STORIES ARE BECOMING MONOTONOUS!
BUT CAN YOU ALSO UNRAVEL MY PLAN?
AT THIS POINT, I BELIEVE I CAN!
FIRST OF ALL, YOU SABOTAGED THE TRB MACHINE SO THAT JAY J RETAINED HIS MEMORY!
THUS, YOU CAME UP WITH THE TRICK OF THE RACE TO MAKE THE AGENCY TRACK HIM DOWN...
THEN YOU ATTEMPTED TO ABDUCT HIM, BUT HE ESCAPED, GOING INTO HIDING!

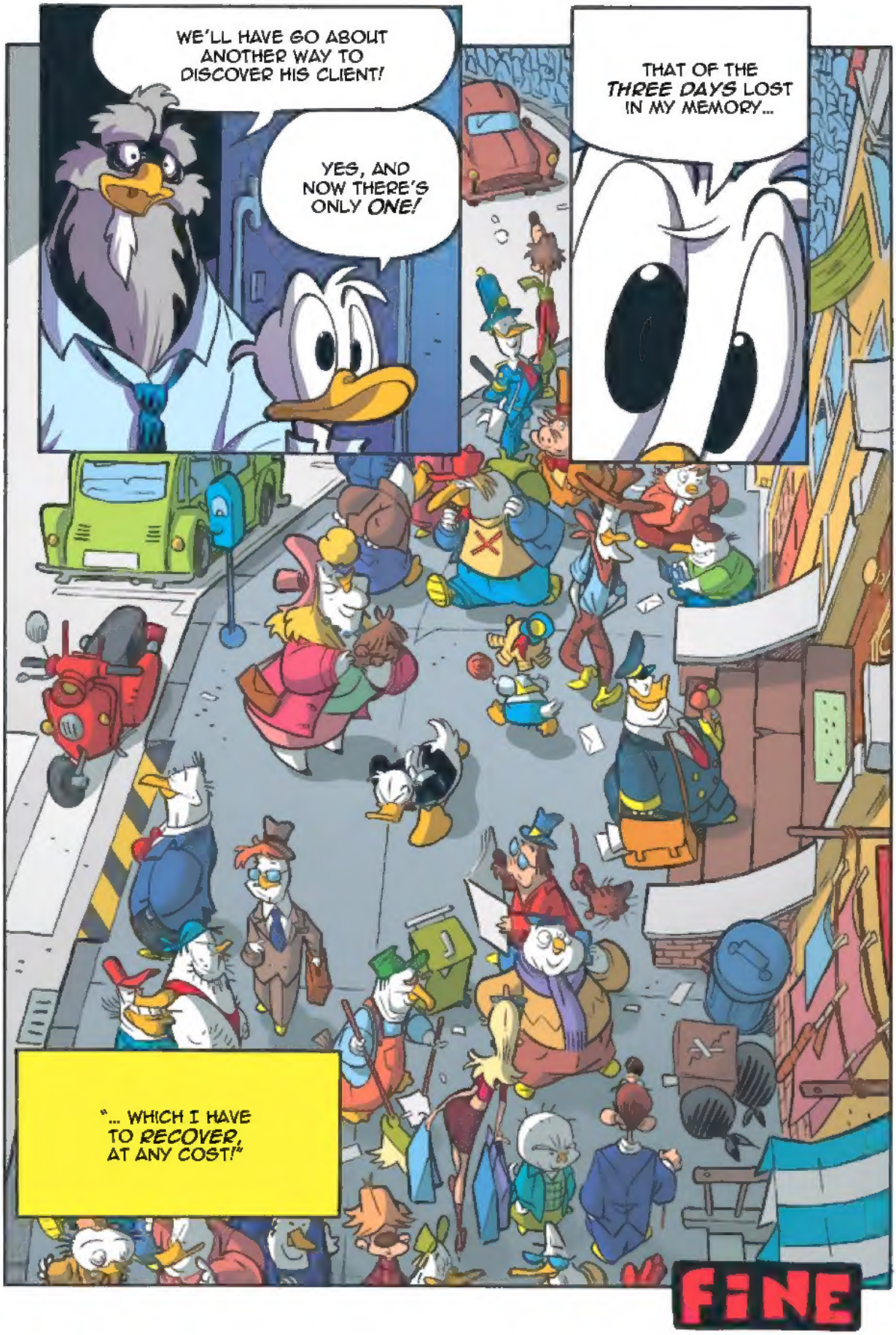
... ADDING TO THE LIE OF THE DESERTION TO COVER THE DECEPTION!
A PERFECT RECONSTRUCTION, EXPECT FOR ONE DETAIL!
I DID NOT CONCEIVE THE PLAN, I ONLY EXECUTED IT!
MEANING THAT THERE'S SOMEONE BEHIND YOU?!
NOT SO MUCH "BEHIND", AS IT IS "ABOVE"!
TO BE PRECISE, IN THE PENTHOUSE! AND HE'S EXPECTING YOU!
GULP! BUT UP THERE'S...
"... THE OFFICE OF THE BIG BOSS!"
24:00
WELCOME, DOUBLEDUCK! I KNEW YOU'D GET TO THE BOTTOM WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
THE BOTTOM OF WHAT? IN SHORT, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT KIND OF CONSPIRACY THIS IS?


THE CONSPIRACY DOESN'T EXIST! IT WAS A SIMULATION!
EEEH?!
YOU MEAN IT WAS ALL *PRETEND?*
YES! ME, LIZ ZAGO, THE DIRECTOR, THE "KIDNAPPERS"...
EACH OF THEM *PLAYED* A PART!
BUT WHY STAGE A FARCE? WASN'T THE EXERCISE ENOUGH?
NO! IN ORDER TO GIVE IT YOUR BEST, YOU HAD TO BELIEVE IT WAS ALL *REAL!*
SO, YOUR RETIREMENT...
POSTPONED! THE AGENCY'S REEMPLOYED ME AS A *CONSULTANT!*
I COULDN'T FIRE A COMPETENT GUY LIKE HIM!
TSK! TOLD YOU SO!

IN CONCLUSION, CONGRATULATIONS FOR HAVING WON THE RACE! EVEN IF YOU... CHEATED A LITTLE!
I GET IT, YOU KNOW THAT KAY K WAS HELPING ME! HOW'D YOU FIND OUT?
THANKS TO THE WATCHES! INSIDE THERE'S A MICRO SPY!
SGRUNT! THAT'S WHY YOU PROVIDED US WITH THEM!
YEAH! THEY CONVEYED IN REAL TIME YOUR EVERY MOVE!
YOU ACTED ACCORDING TO YOUR INSTINCT AND ELUDED THE RULES...
... JUST LIKE A SECRET AGENT HAS TO DO WHEN NECESSARY! SO BRAVO!
EHEM... THANK YOU!


GO NOW! ENJOY YOUR WELL-DESERVED VICTORY!
THAT I WILL!
WHAT IS IT? YOU LOOK THOUGHTFUL!
BECAUSE I REALIZED HOW GOMES MANAGED TO FIND ME!
HE WAS ALSO FOLLOWING THE WATCH'S MICRO SPY! WHICH MEANS THAT...
... HIS CLIENT KNEW ALL ABOUT THE RACE!
THE MYSTERIOUS BIG SHOT OF THE AGENCY... WHO COULD IT BE?
GOMES KNOWS! TIME TO MAKE HIM TALK!
IT WILL BE DIFFICULT! HE SEEMS LIKE A TOUGH COOKIE!
BUT WE HAVE THE MEANS OF CONVINCING HIM!
HUH? YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF TORTURING HIM?

RELAX, WE DON'T USE SUCH METHODS AND... HEY! THE DOOR'S OPEN!
GNEEK
WE CLOSED IT SHUT, I'M SURE OF IT!
GASP! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
IT'S THE SAME KIND I USED IN CAIRO ON MAESTRO FELYNIS!
WELL, NOW SOMEONE'S USED IT HERE AS WELL! GOMES NO LONGER REMEMBERS ANYTHING!
LOOK! A PORTABLE MNEMONIC RESETTER!


WE'LL HAVE GO ABOUT ANOTHER WAY TO DISCOVER HIS CLIENT!
YES, AND NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE!
THAT OF THE THREE DAYS LOST IN MY MEMORY...
"... WHICH I HAVE TO RECOVER, AT ANY COST!"
FINE